

From: norm@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 7:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Anti Trust

Dear Sir or Madam:

From what I have read, the penalty is a PR press release for Microsoft. We helped under privileged schools by giving them software they would not have bought anyway. By the way, this intrenches them more since school kids will likely see and use Microsoft products which encourages them to use them at home and later when they go into the corporate world. Having been a victim of MS, yes anyone who buys a computer from a retail store is a victim, I would like to see them have to buy RedHat or SUSE Linux and deploy it to under privileged schools and pay for subsequent training of staff. That way we would be exposing our youth to Operating systems that are used and designed for the Internet. This would foster competition and serve the public's interest. If they deploy MS products, which typically become incompatible with each other after each new release, the school will be forced to upgrade each time a new release comes out in order to inter-operate with any other division that upgrades. This essentially forces them to upgrade and buy more MS products in the future.

If you want to serve the public interest do the following.

Stop them from forcing people to buy a MS license with each computer. If I buy a computer from a retail store I am forced to buy a MS Windows license whether I intend to use it or not. I may well delete all software and install a competing OS, such as Linux or Solaris. The retail store should be able to refund me the purchase price for MS and remove it if I ask and get a credit from MS. Any competing OS ends up costing double since you are forced to buy an MS license and the other OS license as well.

Gosh, what a deal, for Microsoft that is.

Thank you,

Norman Tackett.